
Local Government Committee

HB 1740

Brief Description: Clarifying the economic development powers of cities, towns, and counties.

Sponsors: Representatives Clibborn, Haler, Appleton, Ericks, Simpson, Sells and Quall.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes cities, towns, and counties to transfer or loan to any city, town, county, or port district any funds, real or personal property, property interests, or services for economic development programs.
- Authorizes cities, towns, and counties to contract with public and private entities in furtherance of laws relating to economic development.
- Authorizes cities, towns, and counties to, upon the satisfaction of specified criteria, jointly exercise with a port district any district powers regarding economic development programs or projects.

Hearing Date: 2/14/05

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

In 1985 the legislature enacted legislation expressly deeming engagement in economic development programs to be in the public purpose for cities, counties, and port districts. The enacted legislation, which has not been modified, granted cities, counties, and port districts the authority to contract with nonprofit corporations in furtherance of the legislation and other laws relating to economic development.

Summary of Bill:

It is a public purpose for cities, towns, and counties to engage in economic development programs and they are expressly authorized to do so. In carrying out these programs, cities, towns, and counties are authorized to transfer or loan to any other city, town, county, or port district, with or without consideration, any funds, real or personal property, property interests, or services. Cities, towns, and counties are authorized to contract with public and private entities in furtherance of specified provisions and other laws relating to economic development.

A city, town, or county may, upon the request of and pursuant to an interlocal agreement with a port district, jointly exercise with that port district any powers of the port district with respect to economic development programs or projects.

The powers granted by the bill supplement those previously authorized by law. Nothing in the bill limits any other authority of cities, towns, and counties. All prior actions consistent with the provisions of the bill are validated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.